

Washington News

A postal savings bank will be established at Nebraska City, Neb.

The senate overruled Vice President Sherman in his ruling that absent members of the pair announced should be counted to make a quorum.

Positive denial is made that Secretary of War Dickinson would offer to resign as a result of a tilt with Chairman Tawney of the appropriations committee.

Chairman Tawney of the house committee on appropriations announced that public buildings already authorized will be taken care of in the sundry civil appropriations bill.

Congressional investigation into transportation expenses paid by Theodore Roosevelt while president was subject of a resolution offered by Congressman Rainey of Illinois.

A Washington dispatch to the Chicago Tribune says: "In spite of the deluge of opposing petitions with which congress has been inundated, there is a good chance that the law providing for a rural parcels post system will be passed in this session. As the situation shapes up at the present time, the enactment of the proposed legislation will be assured if President Taft brings sufficient pressure to bear upon the leaders to carry out the recommendation of the rural system contained in his message. There are a score of rural parcels post bills pending, upon all of which there were extended hearings last winter. The house committee on postoffices and postroads is in possession of all the necessary information on the subject. Representative Weeks of Massachusetts, the chairman of the house committee, favors the inauguration of a parcels post on the rural free delivery routes, and moreover advocates the reduction of the postage rate on merchandise and other fourth-class mail matter from 16 to 12 cents a pound. If a bill embodying this combination should be passed it would be possible to send the parcels under four pounds' weight anywhere in the country for 12 cents a pound, while on the rural routes packages weighing up to eleven pounds could be despatched at the same rate. This is the international parcels post rate."

The senate has confirmed the nomination of Martin A. Knapp to be United States circuit judge; also the

appointments to the interstate commerce commission of C. C. McCord of Kentucky and B. H. Meyer of Wisconsin.

Edward D. White took the oath of office as the ninth chief justice of the United States supreme court.

Louis F. Weber, 76 years old, who led the orchestra at President Buchanan's ball in 1857 and that of President Lincoln in 1861, died of apoplexy.

Senator Burrows presented to the senate the report completely whitewashing Senator Lorimer. The conclusion reached by the committee was as follows: "That in their opinion the title of Mr. Lorimer to a seat in the senate has not been shown to be invalid by the use or employment of corrupt methods or practices." Charges that four members of the Illinois legislature were bribed and that three other members paid bribes are not ignored by the committee. The report declares that those who confessed to receiving bribes should not be believed and that the votes of those who were charged with paying bribes should be counted. In relation to the charges that there was a corruption fund used in the Illinois legislature and that it was disbursed by one Robert E. Wilson, the report says there is no evidence that it was used for the benefit of Mr. Lorimer. The committee suggests that any investigation of the use of such a fund should be made by authorities of the state of Illinois. The report as presented was not signed by all members of the committee, although it did not appear that there was any minority. On the floor of the senate, however, Mr. Beveridge made the statement that he had not been able to concur with or dissent from the findings because of the voluminous character of the testimony. He said he would digest the proceedings of the investigating committee during the holidays. He asked that a specific time be named for acting on the report, but objection was made by Senator Gallinger on the ground that the matter was privileged and could be called from the table at any time by any senator. The statement of views sent to the committee by Senator Frazier, who was a member of the sub-committee which considered the case, was not filed with the report. It was stated that Mr. Frazier had asked that it be withheld and that he should be permitted to file a minority report if he should

desire to do so later. Senator Frazier's statement follows: "As I understand the precedents so established by the senate and the other branch of congress and now recognized as the law governing such cases, they are: First—if the proof established the fact that the member whose seat is in question because of alleged bribery or corrupt practices, and resorted to in his election, has himself been found guilty of bribery or corrupt practices, or knew of or sanctioned such corrupt practices, he may be unseated without reference to the number of votes thus corruptly influenced. Second—if the proof fails to show that the member knew of or participated in or sanctioned such corrupt practices, then, in order to justify unseating him, the proof must show that enough members of the legislature voting for him were bribed, or influenced by corrupt practices, that, deducting their votes from the total vote received by him, would reduce his vote below the legislative majority required for his election. While there are some facts and communications in this case tending to show that Senator Lorimer may have heard of or knew that corrupt practices were being resorted to, and while Senator Lorimer failed to avail himself of the opportunity of going on the stand as witness and denying any such knowledge or sanction of corrupt practices, if any such were practiced, still I am of the opinion that the testimony fails to establish the fact that Senator Lorimer himself was guilty of bribery or other corrupt practices being used by others to influence votes for him. This being true, the question then arises, was bribery or corrupt practices used by others in his behalf to influence votes for him, and if so, were enough votes thus tainted with fraud and corruptly influenced, when eliminated, to reduce his vote below the legal majority required for his election. The legislature of Illinois consists of 204 members. There were present and voting on the occasion of the election of Senator Lorimer 202 members. A quorum of both houses being present, in my opinion he must have received a majority of all those present and voting, or 102 votes, to have been elected. Senator Lorimer received 103 votes, or six more than necessary to elect. The testimony taken by the committee satisfies me that four members of the legislature were paid money for voting for, or in consequence of having voted for Senator Lorimer. One senator and three representatives admitted under oath before the committee that they were paid money, and the admissions and the facts and circumstances surrounding the transactions satisfy me that they received it for a bribe, or in consequence of having cast their votes for Senator Lorimer. The four self-confessed bribe-takers implicate three other members of the legislature who voted for Senator Lorimer as the persons who bribed them. The testimony satisfies me that the three alleged bribe-givers were guilty of that offense. To my mind the man who bribes another is as corrupt as the one who is bribed and by his corrupt act of bribery he demonstrates the fact that he is none too honest to receive a bribe if offered him. While the proof is not clear or conclusive that these three alleged bribe-givers were themselves bribed or corruptly influenced to vote for Senator Lorimer, when I take into consideration their corrupt conduct as bribers of others, together with all the facts and circumstances surrounding the case, I cannot bring myself to agree with the majority of the sub-committee that their votes are free from taint or corruption. These three votes added to the four confessedly bribed would make seven tainted



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